

Pre-Plus Information Sheet

August 2012

Overview:

Pre-Plus is the State's first organized early childhood education initiative. This program delivers preschool opportunities for up to 350 of Hawaii's children and aids the State in achieving its community goal that "All of Hawaii's keiki will be safe, healthy and ready to succeed".

The Pre-Plus initiative evolved from the work of the School Readiness Partnership, which included educators, early childhood experts and policy makers, who met in 2000 to assess, identify, and develop solutions to the most pressing issues affecting the State's early education system. The Partnership identified the availability of quality early learning programs, especially in low-income areas, as the most pressing issue and noted that even if families had sufficient funds for preschools, existing spaces were inadequate.

The concept of "Pre-Plus" was developed in 2001 when State and private agencies such as the Good Beginnings Alliance, Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children, Head Start, and the legislature's Keiki Caucus, began collaborating on the development of workable solutions to the lack of spaces in existing preschools to accommodate the growing number of children needing early childhood education programs.

"Pre-Plus" was realized under the leadership of Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono and received Governor Cayetano's support for the early childhood education initiative as part of the community goal that "All of Hawaii's keiki will be safe, healthy and ready to succeed." The poor economy and the State's budget restricted Gov. Cayetano from using Capitol Improvement Project funds to construct preschool facilities.

However, thanks to the support of private partners such as the Good Beginnings Alliance, HAEYC, Head Start and the legislature's Keiki Caucus, in May of 2002 the legislature appropriated \$5 million dollars of Capitol Improvement Project funds for two years, \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2003 and another \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2004, to build preschools on elementary school campuses throughout the State. Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono's office assumed planning oversight of the Pre-Plus project, until December 2002, when due to the change in government, the project was transferred to the Department of Human Services.

The Pre-Plus program is a public-private partnership in which the State of Hawaii supports building preschool facilities on public elementary school campuses, and contracts with private preschool providers to operate these facilities. The state agencies directly involved with Pre-Plus are the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Pre-Plus was built on the premise that it would provide preschool opportunities to disadvantaged children who otherwise would not have that opportunity due to lack of financial resources and availability of services. Given this, the target population for Pre-Plus is all children, ages 3 and 4, who are not currently attending preschool, and priority for enrollment is given to those

Pre-Plus Information Sheet
August 2012

children whose family income falls at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (or FPL). This is the income eligibility limit for Head Start services and is roughly 75% of the State Median Income (SMI) limit. Child Care Connection Hawaii and Preschool Open Doors income eligibility limits are at 85% SMI, by size of family, meaning that most of the families would also qualify for child care subsidy assistance.

Seventeen child care facilities have been constructed for this project, thirteen on Oahu, two on Hawaii, one on Kauai, and one on Maui. Together they have increased the number of preschool spaces and added enrollment opportunities for over 350 preschool aged children in Hawaii each year. Following is a list of the sites and the contracted preschool providers:

Oahu

- Aiea Elementary School
- Ewa Elementary School
- Jefferson Elementary School
- Ka`ala Elementary School
- Kailua Elementary School
- Kuhio Elementary School
- Salt Lake Elementary School
- Wahiawa Elementary School
- Waiau Elementary School
- Waimanalo Elementary School
- Waipahu Elementary School

Honolulu Community Action Program –Head Start Program

www.hcapweb.org/headstart.html or contact (808) 847-2400

- Fern Elementary School
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
www.pacthawaii.org/early_head_start.html or contact (808) 842-5996
- Kapolei Elementary School
Seagull Schools, Inc.
www.seagullschools.com/ or contact (808) 261-8535

Hawai`i

- Keonepoko Elementary School
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
www.pacthawaii.org/preplus_childcare.html or contact (808) 965-9180
- Mountain View Elementary School
Parents and Children Together (PACT)
www.pacthawaii.org/early_head_start-hawaii.html or contact (808) 961-0570

Kauai

- Kilauea Elementary School

Pre-Plus Information Sheet
August 2012

Child and Family Service

www.childandfamilyservice.org/ or contact (808) 240-2817

Maui

- Lihikai Elementary School
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
www.meoinc.charityfinders.org/HeadStart or contact (808) 249-2988